

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 FEA-02 SCI-06

NEA-10 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /166 W

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R 111924Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7439

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 6136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR

SUBJECT: BREHZNEV-POMPIDOU SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE PREDICTIONS IN FRENCH PRESS THAT THE FRANCO-SOVIET SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN PITSUNDA WILL SIGNAL WARMING UP OF RELATIONS, WE VIEW THE MEETING AS OF LIMITED IMPORTANCE. WE EXPECT POINTS OF TENSION TO REMAIN BENEATH THE SURFACE OF APPARENT BUSINESS-AS-USUAL ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BIGGEST QUESTION ABOUT THE BREHZNEV-POMPIDOU ENCOUNTER REMAINS WHAT SUBJECTS CAN USEFULLY BE DISCUSSED AT THIS STAGE OF FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE VISITS TO PARIS OF SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOVLAEV IN JANUARY AND GROMYKO IN FEBRUARY ALREADY COVERED THE GROUND ON MULTILATERAL SUBJECTS. CSCE WILL DOUBTLESSLY BE HIGH ON THE AGENDA WITH THE SOVIETS PRESSING THE FRENCH FOR MORE RAPID PROGRESS AND A SUMMIT FINALE. A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE ENERGY CRISIS CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED AS WELL AS THE GERMAN-BERLIN PROBLEM.

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3. ON THE BILATERAL SIDE, ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC AGREE-

MENTS SUCH AS THE PECHINEY ALUMINUM PROJECT COULD BE SIGNED. THE FRENCH MAY ALSO PRESS THE SOVIETS FOR INCREASED DELIVERIES OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS UNDER EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS. THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF CONSULTATIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE REVIEWED. HOWEVER, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE FRENCH HAVE REJECTED A SOVIET OFFER TO EXPAND THE OCTOBER 13, 1970 PROTOCOL WHICH SERVES AS A FRAMEWORK FOR CONSULTATIONS.

4. AS WAS THE CASE DURING THE GROMYKO VISIT IN FEBRUARY, THE FRENCH PRESS HAS BEEN SPECULATING THAT FRANCE'S ISOLATION AND DISRUPTIVE TACTICS DURING THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE HAVE MOTIVATED BOTH FRANCE AND THE USSR TO REVERSE THE DETERIORATION IN THEIR RELATIONS WHICH HAS BEEN EVIDENT SINCE LAST SUMMER. HOWEVER, WHILE IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE AN INTEREST IN PRESERVING AT LEAST THE FACADE OF BUSINESS-AS-USUAL, THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF FRICTION DO NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO QUICK AND EASY RESOLUTION. MOST OF ALL THE FRENCH WILL WANT TO CAREFULLY AVOID GIVING ANY IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE COMING TO THE USSR AS SUPPLICANTS.

5. FOR EXAMPLE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT'S COMMENT THAT MAINTAINING US TROOPS IN EUROPE IS NOT "FUNDAMENTAL" FOR FRANCE WAS MADE WITH MOSCOW IN MIND. IN FACT, THE COROLLARY TO THIS STATEMENT, THAT THE EUROPEANS SHOULD DRAW CLOSER TOGETHER IN THE EC, IS A MAJOR FACTOR WHICH HAS STIMULATED FRANCO-SOVIET DISCORD DURING THE PAST YEAR. MOREOVER, IN THE SAME INTERVIEW, JOBERT STRESSED THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE US, THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT A MILITARY ALLY OF FRANCE. HIS STATEMENT THAT FRANCE AND THE USSR "DO NOT BELONG TO THE SAME WORLD" WAS CERTAINLY NOT CALCULATED AS A BALM TO THE SOVIETS.

6. IN SHORT WE ANTICIPATE A SUMMIT MEETING STRONG ON FORM AND WEAK ON SUBSTANCE. WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES ON EITHER SIDE. THE MOST POSITIVE RESULT OF THE ENCOUNTER WILL PROBABLY BE THAT, AFTER  
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MONTHS OF HESITATION AND DOUBT, IT WAS FINALLY HELD AT ALL.  
STONE

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## Message Attributes

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